

be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I had hoped we would have more Senators still on the floor so I can talk about this. While a great effort is being made by the managers of the bill on both sides, we still have a good way to go on this bill, and we do not have a lot of time to get our work done this year.

I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle, if you have an amendment, please come to the floor and offer it this afternoon. We have an agreement. We are going to go, I believe, to the Pryor amendment next. When that is completed, we would like to go to other amendments.

I am hearing Senators say, they are not ready, they would like to do it next week. We also intend to be in tomorrow. We would like to, after Senators talk in morning business, continue on the DOD authorization bill and get some amendments done.

Senator DASCHLE and I have been talking about exactly how tomorrow will be handled, and we are continuing to work on an agreement with regard to the small business tax package and minimum wage. We are very, very, very close, I think, to having an agreement, although it has been very difficult to get that.

But my point is this: If Senators will not come and offer their amendments during the day on Thursday, will not offer their amendments during the day on Friday, we are going to be in session next Tuesday night and Wednesday night and people are going to be whining about why we are here.

Senator DASCHLE and I are trying to show we want to be different, to be reasonable, get out before too late at night and go home and eat some supper with our families, but if we do not get cooperation during the daytime, it leaves us no option.

So I hope if Senators on both sides of the aisle have an amendment, I cannot imagine you are not ready now but you will be on Tuesday. Again, I urge Senators to do that so we can complete this bill early next week, because we still have the other bills we want to consider, including the possibility of one or two appropriations bills.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator PRYOR is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. I think under the unanimous-consent agreement reached last

night, I was to be recognized at this point. Mr. President, if there is no objection, I would like to yield 3 or 4 minutes to the Senator from Nebraska who wants to make a statement, and then also to the Senator from Idaho and the Senator from New Mexico who have an amendment that I understand will be presented and accepted perhaps by a voice vote. Then, if there is no objection, I hope to be recognized. I ask unanimous consent to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. EXON. I inquire of the Chair, what is the pending business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the amendments are to be laid aside so that the business of the Senator from Arkansas can be considered.

Mr. EXON. And the underlying amendment is a Kyl amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We have one amendment, No. 4052 of the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. EXON. I thank the Chair. I thank my friend from Arkansas.

VOTE ON THE NOMINATION OF ALICE RIVLIN

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, before I make a comment with regard to the Kyl amendment, which I have talked about previously and will be talking about again at some length, if necessary, I would just like to make a comment that I was rather disappointed in the votes we just had. We just had two controversial nominations: One, Mr. Greenspan and one, Ms. Rivlin.

I was very pleased to see, although the Greenspan nomination was controversial, it had a strong bipartisan flavor of support on a vote of 91 to 7. Frankly, I was quite disappointed at the lack of similar consideration for the other nomination that some people thought was controversial with regard to Ms. Rivlin.

We all know Alice Rivlin and have known her for a very, very long time. Frankly, I was discouraged that the bipartisan spirit that has to be part of the Federal Reserve Board was not accepted nearly as handily as was the Greenspan nomination.

Ms. Rivlin was confirmed by a vote of 57 for and 41 against. I thank those few Members on the Republican side of the aisle who at least, in this instance, showed the same bipartisan support that those of us on this side of the aisle showed for Mr. Greenspan. Frankly, I was quite disappointed and, I think, this is a point in the Senate that should be raised.

There must be sometime when we can lay partisanship aside and recognize and realize that we have a two-party system that still is designed to function here.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4049

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, on the matter at hand with regard to the amendment offered by the Senator from Arizona on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, I indicated in my remarks of yesterday that the administration, and others, who have a firsthand say, had a firsthand look at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are all opposed to the Kyl amendment. I would like to read briefly at this time the letters that I have received from some of the agencies.

First, a letter I received from the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, from Mr. John D. Holum.

Dear Senator EXON: Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, William C. Danvers, has provided you the Administration's reason for opposing the Kyl-Reid amendment to the FY 1997 Defense Authorization Bill.

As I represent the lead agency in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty negotiations in Geneva, I want to emphasize our belief that this amendment could undermine our efforts to negotiate a Treaty that would end nuclear testing for all time by suggesting a possible U.S. interest in resuming testing before the CTBT enters into force, that does not, in fact, exist.

Since the end of President Eisenhower's tenure, the United States has pursued a CTBT as the long-term goal. Now, when such a treaty is in hand, we urge the members of the Senate to oppose this amendment and to reaffirm our country's longstanding bipartisan efforts to achieve a CTBT.

A second memorandum from the Secretary of Energy:

The nuclear weapons testing moratorium instituted by the Hatfield-Exon-Mitchell amendment has made a significant contribution to the U.S. nuclear non-proliferation efforts. During the duration of the moratorium, the U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons has remained safe and reliable. There is no requirement to resuming testing or even to plan to resume testing for safety or reliability or any other purpose, at this time. The Department of Energy, with the full support of the Department of Defense, has embarked on an ambitious stockpile stewardship program to ensure that the safety and reliability of the stockpile is maintained into the foreseeable future, without nuclear testing. One of the elements of stockpile stewardship is maintaining the readiness of the Nevada Test Site to resume testing if it is in the supreme national interest of the United States to do so. DOE is committed to maintaining this readiness, consistent with Presidential direction. DOE has confidence in the stockpile stewardship program and does not need the authority that this amendment would provide.

President Clinton has already outlined his commitment to maintain the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile under the existing moratorium and under a comprehensive test ban treaty. It is premature to make any statutory changes to the existing moratorium legislation. Any changes should be made only in the context of a negotiated and signed comprehensive test ban treaty. Any changes in the current statutory prohibition on underground nuclear weapons testing at